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West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

News Release

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MERCER COUNTY FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM DEDICATED

KELLYSVILLE, W. Va. – A flood warning system was dedicated in Mercer County on August 4, 2006 at Goodwyn's Chapel, Church of Christ in Kellysville. The Mercer County Flood Warning System Project allowed for the installation of flood monitoring rain gauges at Bramwell, Egeria, Arista and Bluefield. Combination rain and stream gauges were installed on the Bluestone River near Camp Creek and Spanishburg, Payne Branch near Oakvale and on Brush Creek near Glenwood.

Congressman Nick J. Rahall II was the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony. Congressman Rahall was also a key contributor to getting the flood warning system project installed in Mercer County.

The gauges will be added into the current Integrated Flood Observation and Warning System that is operated jointly by the National Weather Service and the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. There are over 300 gauges located throughout West Virginia and more are being added to the system.

This warning system cannot prevent flooding but it allows for faster warnings of possible high water in communities. It can help prevent the loss of life and lessen flood damages to the more than 62,000 citizens of Mercer County.

Contributors to the flood warning system project were: Senator Robert C. Byrd, Congressman Nick J. Rahall II, the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the National Weather Service, Mercer County Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Mercer County Flood Warning System Project was authorized under Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948.

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